

look after you. Jes you obey Him an don't you worry!"

Introducing his companion, he assures his audience that this is "a splendid speaker," and he listens eagerly to the other's halting, practiced: "Ah didn't expect to be called on to speak yeah this even"; and interpolates quick bright "Amen"s, "Yes, He will"s, and "Bless His Name"s during the exhortation that followed.

That night they are not attacked or molested.

But at a gathering of Negroes on a later night I see the same brisk strange little man standing unnoticed by himself at one side of the hall, and I go to him and assure him of my sympathy and tell him that I was present the night he was attacked. He passes over that hastily; it was nothing; he has had many such experiences; but when I ask him about himself he answers my questions obligingly, though with some diffidence. He knows nothing of his parents except that before the emancipation one or both were slaves; he has been taught scarcely anything; and has done hard work all his life. In his youth he joined a church and began to preach, but having come soon afterward to see the quality of churches and to be aware of his "mission," he travelled "north" and began to go about working and preaching. He belongs to no church and disapproves of all alike. He has no property, permitting himself nothing but poverty and labour. Already he is looked down upon as improvident by those who know him. His wife has left him, not relishing her lot with him, for they were forced always to lodge in the poorest parts of the towns they visited. The intolerance and hate of white Americans for Negro people made their lives harder than they would otherwise have been. Single rooms near small independent "missions houses," if there were any that suited, were their temporary homes; and from one such the wife went at last to visit at the town of Nashville in the distant state of Tennessee, and she has not come back. Her intention to do so was vague at her departure. Her husband has suffered a great deal through her desertion and has humbly and pitifully begged her by letter to return, but he has born her failure to do so and goes on with his work. He is not loved, nor even much liked by anyone, I find later; he and his preaching, his high standards, his belief, his self-reliance and